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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

EU to pressure Greek Cypriots to approve UN plan - Hurriyet
Decision left to Cypriot people - Hurriyet
South Cyprus inclined to reject Annan Plan - Milliyet
Verheugen: No more isolation for Turks if Greeks reject UN
plan - Sabah
World regards Burgenstock as victory for the Turks - Turkiye
EU, Turkey joint operation against DHKP-C - Sabah
Hunt for terrorists in Turkey, Europe - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

Bush congratulates Erdogan on Cyprus - Zaman
Bush lauds Ankara, pressures Athens - Radikal
Powell, Blair happy with Cyprus outcome - Radikal
Erdogan warns Denktas against obstruction of UN plan -
Cumhuriyet
Denktas sees 'no point in accepting Annan Plan' - Cumhuriyet
EU warns Greek Cypriots of division, international sanctions
- Zaman
Greek press sees the Annan Plan as a trap - Zaman
International operation against DHKP-C - Yeni Safak
European Parliament report fully supports Turkey - Yeni
Safak

BRIEFING

Cyprus: EU enlargement chief Verheugen praised Turkey's
'positive contribution' to the UN-backed Cyprus peace talks.
President Bush called PM Erdogan to congratulate him on the
efforts by Turkey to reach a solution. 'History will not
forgive attempts to block a solution in Cyprus,' Erdogan
said in an indirect reference to Turkish Cypriot leader
Denktas, who said on Thursday that the Annan Plan would only
bring further conflict. 'This is the best possible text for
the Turkish side,' Erdogan said. The EU has warned the
Greek Cypriots against refusal of the UN blueprint, and said
international economic and political sanctions could be
imposed on Nicosia. Although Turkey's National Security
Council (NSC) issued a favorable statement concerning the
plan, the Council is concerned that failure to make Turkish
derogations part of EU primary law could cause problems in
future, dailies report. The NSC is also reportedly worried
that the high number of Greek Cypriot migrants expected to
move north could severely harm the bi-zonal structure of the
island. The NSC will hold another meeting on April 5 to
discuss Cyprus.

EU crackdown on 'Dev-Sol': Germany, Italy, the Netherlands,
Belgium and Turkey staged a coordinated crackdown on
Thursday against DHKP-C (Dev-Sol) members in various
European and Turkish cities. The operations resulted in the
detention of 16 suspects in Europe, and 38 in Turkey. DHKP-
C leader Dursun Karatas, long sought by Interpol, was not
among those detained. Fehriye Erdal, who is suspected in
the murder of Turkish industrialist Ozdemir Sabanci, was
briefly detained by Belgian authorities, but was later
released. Papers regard the crackdown as part of security
preparation in advance of the June NATO Summit in Istanbul.

European Parliament's Turkey report: A European Parliament

report drafted by Dutch parliamentarian Arie Oostlander praises Ankara's reform process on democratization and human rights, and urges Turks to press ahead with implementation. The report draws attention to the existing 'authoritarian Constitution,' a legacy of the 1980 military takeover. The report states that further limitations are necessary on the enormous authority wielded by Turkey's military in politics. Turkey's position on the Cyprus question, the report stresses, echoes the political might of the Turkish military. The EP report also urges that the ten percent election threshold for general elections in Turkey be reduced.

DEP trial: The former Kurdish parliamentarians from the Democracy Party (DEP) -- Leyla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan and Selim Sadak -- are not expected to appear before the court at the 13th hearing in the retrial of their case today. The defendants are expected to boycott the session as a protest against the legal process and recent remarks on the case by the Justice Minister. Defense lawyers have accused the court of bias, and have said that their defendants would appeal to the European Human Rights Court.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

- a) NATO-Fight against terrorism
- b) Cyprus

"The Dilemma of Changing NATO"

Etyen Mahcupyan commented in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (4/2): "It was obvious that the US would not sit and watch the demise of NATO in the rapidly changing world. There has been a search for a new threat for NATO to address, and recent developments have served to shape that new threat -- terrorism. The terrorism concept, however, is not enough to justify NATO's mission for decades on end. But now the meaning of terrorism has been expanded to include all sorts of violence. NATO is now ready to act as the global policeman to prevent any act of violence that might threaten the world order. . The demise of the Soviet Union and the acceleration of globalization led the US to try to legitimize its hegemony over a vast geographical area. This brings us to NATO's expansion project. The upcoming NATO summit in Istanbul will make official the fact that NATO will now function on a broader international basis. Yet there seems to be a dilemma: NATO's new mission requires rapid action and a fast decision mechanism. It remains to be seen how this will be achieved with the participation of new members in a NATO organization that has become more cumbersome."

"The role that US and UK Played on the Cyprus Issue"

Mehmet Ali Birand wrote in the mass appeal-sensational Posta (4/2): "The UN has been in the forefront during the Cyprus negotiations, yet there have also been some hidden actors. They did not make any public statements, and always preferred to remain in the background. Chief among these actors were the US administration and the British cabinet. The person who prevented any last-minute problems for the Turkish side, resolved many disagreements, and intervened in every deadlock, was Secretary Powell. Whenever Tom Weston called him, Powell was there to take the call. . President Bush, Prime Minister Blair, and the duo of EU Commission President Prodi and Verheugen kept their promises to Turkish PM Erdogan. When you ask UN officials, they say that PM Erdogan's sincere desire to produce a solution played an important part in reaching the end result. Let's see who will help who at the referenda."

"It All Depends on How You View It"

Sami Kohen opined in the mass appeal Milliyet (4/2): "One should accept that the Annan plan has more pluses than minuses for the Turkish side. Moreover, the fourth Annan plan contains many positive items compared with the previous plans. Progress has been made on issues such as bizonality, equality, security, and Turkey's guarantor status. . The debate will continue until the referendum on April 24. Until then, those who think that the plan is acceptable and others who consider it as a dangerous trap will try to influence the Turkish Cypriots, who will have the last word on the issue. Considering it from a wider angle, some believe that, with time, integration will take place on the island, and the problems associated with the integration will ease. If that were to happen, both Turkey and the Turkish Cypriots would benefit immensely."

EDELMAN